

Appl. No. 10/052,966
Atty. Docket No. G-271ML (CP-1230)
Amdt. dated 11/23/2004
Reply to Office Action of 08/23/2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Application Amendments

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-24 have been previously withdrawn. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended as shown above to delete hydrogen from the group of possible R₂ substituents. Support for this amendment can be found in the original claims 1 and 2 and at page 2, line 22 to page 3, line 23 of the specification.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b) Over Database CALPUS on STN. No. 106:192593 to Molodykh et al.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Database CALPUS on STN. No. 106:192593, "Antimicrobial activity of ortho-aminomethylphenols and their derivatives", abstract, Molodykh et al., 1987 ("Molodykh"). The Examiner asserts that Molodykh discloses 1,3-benzenediol derivatives containing a piperidinylmethyl group and, thus, meets the requirements of claims 1, 2, and 4. The Examiner states that the last two lines of claim 1, added in the previous amendment, allow for a C₆ ring saturated or unsaturated and containing an additional hetero atom selected from O, S, and N atoms. Thus, the Examiner concludes that this language includes a piperidine substituent group. Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejection based on the following comments.

As currently amended, Applicants' claim 1 recites a compound of claimed formula (1) wherein R₁ and R₂ are selected from respective lists of claimed substituents, or R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a C₃ to C₅ saturated or unsaturated ring *optionally containing* in the ring one or more *additional* hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, or R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a C₆ saturated or unsaturated ring *containing* in the ring one or more *additional* hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N. Piperidine is a six-membered saturated hydrocarbon ring containing one nitrogen heteroatom. In Applicants' claim 1, when R₁ and R₂ together form a C₆ saturated or unsaturated ring, that C₆ ring contains one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N *in addition to the nitrogen atom to which*

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R₁ and R₂ are attached. Unlike the the “*optionally* containing” language limiting C₃ to C₅ rings, the language limiting C₆ rings is “containing”. Stated differently, in Applicants’ claim 1, a C₆ ring must contain at least two heteroatoms, one of which is the nitrogen atom to which R₁ and R₂ are attached. Therefore, a piperadine ring substituent, which contains only one heteroatom, is not included in the language of claim 1. As a result, Applicants’ claims 1 and 2 are novel over Molodykh.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a) Over US Patent No. 4,645,771 to Mills

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,645,771 to Mills (“Mills”). The Examiner asserts that Mills teaches benzyl tetrahydropyridine compounds having a structural formula of a formula I, wherein the R₂-R₆ substituents on ring A are selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl or alkoxy radicals, and R₁ is a hydrogen or an alkyl radical. The Examiner also asserts that Mills states that R₂ and R₆ can be hydroxy radicals with the remaining R₃-R₅ substituents being hydrogen. The Examiner notes, though, that Mills does not teach or exemplify Applicants’ claimed compounds. However, the Examiner further asserts that Mills suggests preparation of various derivatives, including specific dihydroxy derivatives of pyridines that include Applicants’ claimed compounds. Thus, the Examiner concludes that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to prepare Applicants’ claimed compounds because Mills teaches tetrahydropyridine derivatives such as dihydroxybenzyl derivatives and Applicants’ claims recite that R₁ and R₂ can together form a ring of C₃ atoms such as pyridine. Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejection based on the following comments.

Mills does not teach or suggest all of Applicants’ claim limitations and, therefore, does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP 2143.03). As described above, Applicants’ claim 1 recites a compound of claimed formula (1) wherein R₁ and R₂ are selected from respective lists of claimed substituents, or R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a C₃ to C₅ saturated or unsaturated ring *optionally containing* in the ring one or more *additional* hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, or R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a C₆ saturated or unsaturated ring *containing* in the ring one or more *additional* hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N. Applicants’ claimed compounds can be used as couplers for oxidative hair coloring to provide bright yellow and orange-yellow coloration to hair.

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In contrast, Mills discloses tetrahydropyridine derivatives for use as inhibitors of the aggregation of blood platelets for application in the treatment of thrombosis or occlusive vascular disease. While Mills more specifically discloses 1-benzyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine derivatives with 2,6-dihydroxy substitution on the benzene ring, Applicants' claim 1 does not include such compounds having pyridine derivative substituents. The Examiner asserts that Applicants' "instant claims recite that R1 and R2 together can form a ring of C5 atoms i.e., pyridine." Office Action at page 3. Although pyridine contains five carbon atoms, pyridine is a six-membered unsaturated aromatic hydrocarbon ring containing one nitrogen heteroatom. As with piperidine discussed above, in Applicants' claim 1 where R₁ and R₂ together form a C₆ saturated or unsaturated ring, that C₆ ring must contain at least two heteroatoms, one of which is the nitrogen atom to which R₁ and R₂ are attached. Therefore, a pyridine ring substituent, which contains only one heteroatom, is not included in the language of claim 1. As a result, Mills fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicants' claim 1.

Additionally, there is no motivation to modify the compounds disclosed in Mills to achieve Applicants' compounds of claim 1. Mills only discloses pyridine derivatives having 1-benzyl substituents. The 1-benzyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine derivatives of Mills are described as possessing blood platelet aggregation inhibition properties similar to other known benzyl-substituted pyridine derivatives. Thus, one of ordinary skill in pharmacology and medicinal chemistry would not find motivation in Mills to modify the pyridine structure of the compounds of Mills because Mills teaches that the compounds of Mills possess properties similar to other pyridine derivative compounds. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art of oxidative hair coloring would not look to the non-analogous art of medicinal chemistry for motivation to modify compounds intended for use in oxidative hair coloring.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because Mills fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicants' claim 1 and further fails to provide any motivation to modify the compounds of Mills to achieve Applicants' claimed compounds. Therefore, Applicants' claim 1, as well as claims 2-3 and 5-6 which contain the limitations of claim 1, are novel and nonobvious over Mills.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a) Over US Patent No. 4,888,283 to Bertini et al.

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Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,888,283 to Bertini et al. ("Bertini"). The Examiner asserts that Bertini teaches compounds that act as inhibitors of benzylaminoxidases, which compounds have a general formula I in which R1 and R2 can be hydrogen, hydroxy, and alkoxy, and R3, R4, and R5 can be hydrogen or alkyl. Thus, the Examiner asserts that Bertini teaches benzene diol compounds. The Examiner further asserts that Bertini suggests that for compounds of formula I containing alkoxy groups at R1 and R2 the synthesis steps comprise preparing benzaldehyde from benzene, transforming the benzaldehyde to oximes, and reducing the oximes to benzylamino compounds. Thus, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare hydroxyl containing benzene derivatives of formula I because Bertini suggests that preparing compounds by the described process is easily carried out. Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejection based on the following comments.

Bertini does not teach or suggest all of Applicants' claim limitations and, therefore, does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP 2143.03). As currently amended, Applicants' claim 1 recites a compound of claimed formula (1), wherein, *inter alia*, R₁ is selected from hydrogen atoms, C₁ to C₃ alkyl, C₁ to C₃ mono or dihydroxyalkyl, phenyl or benzyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, amino or C₁ to C₃ alkoxy group, and R₂ is selected from all of the same group of substituents *except* hydrogen, or R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form certain heterocyclic rings as claimed. Applicants' claimed compounds can be used as couplers for oxidative hair coloring to provide bright yellow and orange-yellow coloration to hair.

Unlike Applicants' claimed compounds, the compounds of formula I of Bertini are intended for use as selective inhibitors of benzylaminoxidases with respect to other aminoxidases. Although the variable substituents of formula I of Bertini can be selected such that any two of the R1-R5 substituents are hydroxyl which thus provide a benzene diol compound, formula I of Bertini requires an *unsubstituted* aminomethyl group at the position on the benzene molecule between the R1 and R2 substituents. Bertini provides no teaching or suggestion for a *substituted* aminomethyl group at this position of the benzene molecule. In formula (1) of Applicants' claim 1 as currently amended, R₂ cannot be hydrogen and, therefore, a substituted aminomethyl group is required at the 2-position

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of the benzene-1,3-diol derivative compound. As a result, Bertini fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicants' claim 1.

Additionally, there is no motivation to modify the compounds disclosed in Bertini to achieve Applicants' compounds of claim 1. Bertini is directed to compounds suitable for causing the selective inhibition of benzylaminooxidase, which is an enzyme that catalyzes the oxidative deamination of various monoamines or polyamines in biological systems. As stated immediately above, formula I of Bertini requires an unsubstituted aminomethyl group at the position on the benzene molecule between the R1 and R2 substituents. Further, all of the example compounds described in Bertini have an unsubstituted aminomethyl group. Moreover, one of skill in the art of oxidative hair coloring would not look to the non-analogous art of enzyme biochemistry for motivation to modify compounds intended for use in oxidative hair coloring.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because Bertini fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicants' claim 1 and further fails to provide any motivation to modify the compounds of Bertini to achieve Applicants' claimed compounds. Therefore, Applicants' claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 5-9 which contain the limitations of claim 1, are novel and nonobvious over Bertini.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the present rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 1-24.

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